

**CLAIMS**

- [c1] 1. In a controller, a method for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the method comprising:  
maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and  
maintaining information about a user in the net.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net identifier.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a list of current users in the net.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net status, the net status including a secure net or a clear net.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net state, the net state including an active state or a dormant state.
- [c6] 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net address.
- [c7] 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining information identifying an arbitration scheme.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user status, the user status including talking or listening.
- [c9] 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user priority.
- [c10] 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the user priority includes a user privilege level to modify the information about the net.

- [c11] 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user Internet protocol (IP) address.
- [c12] 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining information identifying existing nets the user is authorized to participate in.
- [c13] 13. In a controller, a database for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the database comprising:  
a first portion for maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and  
a second portion for maintaining information about a user in the net.
- [c14] 14. In a controller, a computer-readable medium embodying a method for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the method comprising:  
maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and  
maintaining information about a user in the net.
- [c15] 15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net identifier.
- [c16] 16. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a list of current users in the net.
- [c17] 17. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net status, the net status including a secure net or a clear net.
- [c18] 18. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net state, the net state including an active state or a dormant state.
- [c19] 19. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net address.

[c20] 20. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining information identifying an arbitration scheme.

[c21] 21. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user status, the user status including talking or listening.

[c22] 22. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user priority.

[c23] 23. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the user priority includes a user privilege level to modify the information about the net.

[c24] 24. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user Internet Protocol (IP) address.

[c25] 25. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining information identifying existing nets the user is authorized to participate in.

[c26] 26. A controller for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the controller comprising:  
means for maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and  
means for maintaining information about a user in the net.

[c27] 27. The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a net identifier.

[c28] 28. The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a list of current users in the net.

[c29] 29. The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a net status, the net status including a secure net or a clear net.

[c30] 30. The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a net state, the net state including an active state or a dormant state.

[c31] 31. The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a net address.

[c32] 32. The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining information identifying an arbitration scheme.

[c33] 33. The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a user status, the user status including talking or listening.

[c34] 34. The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a user priority.

[c35] 35. The controller of claim 34, wherein the user priority includes a user privilege level to modify the information about the net.

[c36] 36. The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a user Internet Protocol (IP) address.

[c37] 37. The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining information identifying existing nets the user is authorized to participate in.

[c38] 38. A controller for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the controller comprising:

a memory unit; and

a processor communicatively coupled to the memory unit, the processor being capable of:  
maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and  
maintaining information about a user in the net.

[c39] 39. The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a net identifier.

[c40] 40. The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a list of current users in the net.

[c41] 41. The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a net status, the net status including a secure net or a clear net.

[c42] 42. The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a net state, the net state including an active state or a dormant state.

[c43] 43. The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a net address.

[c44] 44. The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining information identifying an arbitration scheme.

[c45] 45. The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a user status, the user status including talking or listening.

[c46] 46. The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a user priority.

[c47] 47. The controller of claim 34, wherein the user priority includes a user privilege level to modify the information about the net.

[c48] 48. The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a user Internet Protocol (IP) address.

[c49] 49. The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining information identifying existing nets the user is authorized to participate in.